

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304137

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT STATE 304137, SENT PARIS, INFO OASD
DC/ISA/FMRA, CSAF XOXXI, AFSC ANDREWS AFB/DOSF, AFETR PATRICK
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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304137

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, FR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FOREIGN OPERATING RIGHTS - EC-135
OPERATIONS IN TAHITI

REFS: (A) STATE 226055 DEC 71

(B) PARIS 03072 FEB 72

1. THE AIR FORCE EASTERN TEST RANGE, AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS
DIVISION, DESIRES TO CONTINUE TAHITI STAGING OPERATION
REQUESTED/APPROVED PER REFTELS. THIS SUPPORT WOULD
CONSIST OF ONE OR TWO EC-135 AIRCRAFT OPERATING OUT OF
PAPEETE INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD TWO TO FOUR TIMES EACH
YEAR THROUGH FY1980. THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED TO
RECORD TELEMETRY DATA OBTAINED DURING THE ORBITAL
INSERTION OPERATION OF DOD SATELLITES. THE DATA WOULD
BE USED TO ASSIST GROUND STATIONS IN ACQUIRING THE SPACE
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VEHICLES AND ALSO TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF ANY

POSSIBLE SYSTEM MALFUNCTIONS SHOULD THEY OCCUR. PREVIOUSLY, A COMBINATION OF OCEAN RANGE VESSELS AND EC-135 AIRCRAFT OPERATING OUT OF PAPEETE INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD WERE USED TO RECORD THE DATA. THE OCEAN RANGE VESSELS WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN. THE AIRCRAFT WOULD ACQUIRE TEST DATA APPROXIMATELY 1200 MILES NORTHEAST OF TAHITI AT 9 DEGREES SOUTH, 131

DEGREES WEST. PAPEETE INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD IS THE ONLY STAGING AND RECOVERY BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC FROM WHICH IT IS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THIS TELEMETRY REQUIREMENT.

2. UNDER AFETR OPERATIONS NUMBER 5234, THE EC-135 AIRCRAFT WOULD STAGE AND RECOVER PAPEETE INTERNATIONAL. FLIGHT ROUTING WILL BE DIRECT TO TEST SUPPORT POSITION 9 DEGREES SOUTH, 131 DEGREES WEST, HOLDING UNTIL LAUNCH SUPPORT AND RECOVER TAHITI. TELEMETRY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT IS US GOVERNMENT OWNED AND PERMANENTLY INSTALLED IN THE AIRCRAFT.

3. AIRCREW INVOLVED FOR EACH AIRCRAFT WILL BE APPROXIMATELY SIX OFFICERS, 15 AIRMEN AND ONE DOD-SPONSORED CIVILIAN. THERE WILL BE NO PASSENGERS OR CARGO.

4. GROUND SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS ARE: PASSENGER RAMP, MD-3 OR EQUIVALENT BOEING 707 POWER UNIT FOR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, MA-1A OR EQUIVALENT AIR START CART FOR DEPARTURE, UP TO 140,000 POUNDS OF JET FUEL, AND 670 US GALLONS OF DEMINERALIZED WATER FOR EACH DEPARTURE.

5. UPON RECEIPT OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, CLEARANCE FOR EACH AIRCRAFT AND CREW WILL BE REQUESTED UNDER USAF FOREIGN CLEARANCE GUIDE.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY OBTAIN FRENCH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR ONE OR TWO EC-135 AIRCRAFT TO OPERATE OUT OF PAPEETE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT FREQUENCY OF FROM TWO TO FOUR TIMES A YEAR, ON UNDERSTANDING (A) INDIVIDUAL AIRCRAFT CLEARANCES WILL BE SECURED UNDER FOREIGN CLEARANCE GUIDE PROCEDURES AND (B) THESE CONFIDENTIAL

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OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH FY 1980. DATA OBTAINED FROM ABOVE DESCRIBED FLIGHTS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT UPON REQUEST. FYI. WE RECOGNIZE POSSIBILITY FRENCH MIGHT NOT GRANT INDIVIDUAL AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE SHOULD THEY COINCIDE WITH FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST PERIODS IN POLYNESIA AND USAF WILL BEAR THIS IN MIND. END FYI.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY SUBMISSION TO GOF, AS FIRST
MISSION IS PROJECTED ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 18, 1976.
ROBINSON
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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